157 because of it he has often indulged in petty quarrels and disputes. This stubbornness is called in Finnish sisu, a word which has no equivalent in any other language, and which can best be described by the words of Aleksis Kivi, the greatest of all Finnish writers: " 'Sisu' takes a man even through a grey stone! "

181 In spite of its fairly isolated position, Finland
●105 has always been open to influence from abroad, and the Finns, while clinging to their traditional culture, have for a long time been ready and willing to accept new ideas. In this way they have created a civilization which is original in in the best sense of the word, at the same time making use of valuable elements of European civilization. The relatively high level of Finnish folk culture is due to the moral qualities

105 of the people and to their having early acquired
181
a high degree of civilization. The Finn has always wanted to think for himself, and the dominant note in Finnish society has always been liberty--slavery and serfdom have never existed
157 there. The Finn is decidedly individualistic,
[156] cherishing his traditional rights, but he has a reverence for his governmental and judicial systems in which he himself is an active party. He is not easily led astray by revolutionary doctrines, and seldom has he risen against the prevailing authority.

The Finn is not actually conservative--the modern character of present-day Finnish society and culture bears ample testimony to this--but he is suspicious of outside influence. Towards foreigners he is very hospitable--